

U. S. Department of Energy
Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Program mng'r Jan. 20, 2000

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Dear Ms. Dixon,

JAN 26 2000
EIS001049

Enclosed is a copy of a
letter sent to Senator Murkowski
as chairman of the Senate
Energy-Natural Resources Committee.

Please distribute it to all
persons concerned with the
Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental
Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
Frank Perna

Energy-Natural Resources/Chairman

Oct. 30, 1999

Senator Frank H. Murkowski

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Dear Senator Murkowski,

1 I am writing to protest the Senate's consideration of nuclear waste legislation. This legislation was flawed from its inception in that alternatives to the transportation of nuclear waste were not fully studied and the tyranny of the majority imposed this unnecessary burden on a politically weak state. Imagine the futility and environmentally damaging transport of this toxic waste when we have the technology to manufacture transportation caskets that are indestructible and as Congress and the nuclear lobby say in which no nuclear reaction can occur.

These transportation caskets can be safely used for on site storage of the nuclear waste, that through present technology can be further reduced in toxicity.

3 as you pointed out, yesterday on the Senate floor, the technology is available in Europe and Asia to recover plutonium which can then be used as fuel in those U.S. reactors so designed or sold to our NATO allies as fuel for their reactors.

4... also mentioned were alternatives to nuclear energy since no new nuclear plants have been forwarded since 1979. America is rich in coal and the Appalachia region will be enriched, economically and socially, if we use present technology to reduce the pollutants in some coal. Nazi Germany and South Africa had the

4 cont.

technology over 55 years ago to manufacture gas and fuel from coal and with our increase in knowledge, since then, we should be able to utilize these processes to our advantage. The Escalante shale oil coal deposits could also be used to supplement our shrinking oil reserves, while reducing our dependence on foreign oil, through Congressional action.

7

The present nuclear plants are as polluted as the Nevada test site so using them for storage, now and later, will not pollute any further ground or create any more environmental hazards to health or water.

5...

Nevada has more than paid its debt by providing security to America, by hosting the Nevada test site, and should not have to have further nuclear waste stored in the unproven and earthquake vulnerable Yucca mountain site. As you know, there has been migration of radioactivity in the ground water toward Death Valley from the Nevada test site. There is evidence that the water table has risen in Yucca Mountain and any migration of radioactivity in the water table, would endanger Las Vegas, the entertainment capital of the world. The proposed lowered radiation standards wouldn't lessen the risk and are a dishonest attempt to, unscientifically,

5 cont. present Yucca mountain as safe.

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8 the states that have nuclear plants have enjoyed lower rates and the surcharge their citizens paid can now be used to create safe repositories, on site, and any surplus funds can be related to the rate payers.

I am not a scientist or nuclear engineer but this letter is based on information readily available to Congress!

6 It is time to be fair and sensible to reduce the burden that the nuclear lobby has placed on America, through corporate greed.

Please provide copies of my letter to all committee members.

Ck Senator Harry Reid

Senator Richard Bryan

Mr. Mike O'Callaghan
Las Vegas Sun

Sincerely,
Frank Perna
4398 Fernbrook Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89103